

the Roadrunner

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

April/May 2008



Tulip Treasures

Photo by Jay Bailey

the Roadrunner

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Nebraska Department of Roads

Communication Division
1500 Highway 2
PO Box 94759
Lincoln NE 68509-4759
(402)479-4512
www.nebraskatransportation.org

Governor Dave Heineman

Highway Commission

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
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| John Kingsbury | Ronald Books |
| Donna Wanitschke | Greg Wolford |
| | Jerome Fagerland |

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Deputy Director.....Monty Fredrickson
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Districts

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District 3.....Kristine Winter
District 4Wesley Wahlgren
District 5.....Craig Lind
District 6.....Gary Thayer
District 7Kurt Vosburg
District 8.....Mark Kovar

EditorLinda M. Wilson
Type & LayoutDiane German
Printing.....D.A.S.

The information in this newsletter is contributed
by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.



The Value of a Positive Attitude



Gary Thayer

Gary Thayer
District 6 Engineer

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people think or say, or do.

It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It can make or break an organization, a school, a home. The remarkable thing is, we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past... We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude.... I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you...." - Charles Swindoll

Are you a reactive person? Do you spend your day thinking about what the people around you are doing or saying? Do you choose to smile your way through your day? Do you have a positive attitude?

As department employees, we are faced with many negatives. Statements made by the public, those written about in the newspapers, comments from fellow employees. How do you react to the negatives in your life? Do you act for resolution or do you react to feed the negativity?

The department is in an era of change. We are changing our standards for highway design and construction. We are changing our funding distribution which includes the way we receive funds and how we spend the funds we receive. Technologically, we can change just about every aspect of how we do our work—SiteManager for construction record-keeping, EAMS for equipment management, GPS for surveying practices, MDSS for material applications during winter operations, Outlook 2007 for e-mail. The list goes on and on.

How are you reacting to all this change? Do you get upset because you think this type of behavior will force change to stop and we will go back to the way things were—back to a kinder, easier way of life? Do you understand the role you play in the changes that occur? Are you willing to give up your cell phone, your computer, your XM radio? Should we start to build vehicles again that are rusted out in six years, mechanically worn out after 75,000 miles and achieve fuel economy numbers in the single digits? Should each of us cut our own firewood to heat our homes, plant our own gardens and sew our own clothes?

Do you embrace change because it is part of the society that we are? Or do you react negatively toward change because of how it is affecting your life at the moment instead of seeing the positive improvements that will result in the future? Are you playing an active role in your life or are you sitting on the sidelines watching life go by?

Change is inevitable and we are challenged every day to choose our attitude toward it. If we choose to be positive, we will be challenged to maintain a positive attitude due to all the outside forces at work. We can continue to blame others for "dragging" us down, but in reality, it is how we choose to react that will decide our internal happiness. Is a positive attitude worth the effort? I believe it is! ♦

Affirmative Action Program Focuses on Enhancements

**By Lois Schmidt, Carrie Williams
& Michael Mitchell**
Human Resources Division

The Nebraska Department of Roads is focusing efforts to enhance our Affirmative Action Program. The Affirmative Action Program provides all persons with an equal opportunity for employment and advancement and prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, or physical or mental disability. Federal and state statutes and regulations ensure fair and equal treatment of applicants and employees.

The Affirmative Action Program is coordinated by the Human Resources Division and includes a written Affirmation Action Plan (AAP) that has been distributed to districts and divisions. Human Resources personnel are meeting with each district and division to discuss affirmative action and identify ways in which Human Resources can assist them with their efforts. The meetings provide information about the plan and program as a means to educate and afford each district and division an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas.

The meetings include a discussion about misconceptions that are neither required nor permitted in an affirmative action program such as: quotas, preferential treatment, hiring unqualified persons, or making hiring, promotion or any other personnel decision based on age, race, sex, etc.

Equal Treatment

Copies of the Nebraska Department of Road's Affirmative Action Plan can be found on our website and additional copies are provided upon request. Affirmative action programs/plans ensure employees and applicants are treated equally in ways such as:

- Reviewing job qualifications and making sure they are job-related;

- Ensuring active recruitment efforts reach appropriate sources to obtain qualified employees;
- Maintaining contacts with organizations representing minority groups, females, professional societies, and other sources of qualified applicants for technical, professional and management level positions;
- Ensuring that all vacancies are posted prominently and that employees are encouraged to apply for jobs they feel they are qualified for;
- Providing training on proper interviewing techniques, EEO, and diversity;
- Including EEO/AA in the performance evaluation of managers and supervisors;
- Establishing goals to employ minorities and women at rates that are similar to their availability in the labor force.

Positive Steps

The enhancement of NDOR's Affirmative Action Program includes taking positive steps in:

- Evaluating our employment of minorities and women by district and division instead of an agency as a whole. This allows us an opportunity to get a better idea of where we need to focus our efforts.
- Providing better and timelier reporting of affirmative action activities to better measure our improvement. This information will be shared with district engineers and division heads.
- Increasing awareness of affirmative action and providing opportunities for supervisors, managers and employees to be involved in the program, share in the successes of the program, and be considered stakeholders.
- Designating a person in each district and division to serve as a point of contact to actively work with

the Affirmation Action Officer, monitor activities and provide a means to communicate and to exchange ideas to improve our efforts.

- Working to create a presence in communities by being more actively involved in events sponsored by schools, churches, membership organizations, and minority and women's coalitions.
- Identifying and working to reduce obstacles that may deter qualified individuals from applying for initial employment and for promotional opportunities.
- Working with managers and supervisors to identify ways to increase the number and quality of candidates and evaluating our business practices to ensure we are able to attract qualified candidates.

Best Qualified Employees

Our goal is to hire and promote the best qualified employees available, and to have our workforce be representative of the communities we serve. The population of Nebraska's communities has and is continuing to change. We must capitalize on the education, experience and abilities of this population. We must compete with every other employer throughout Nebraska and in surrounding states for the most important resource needed to accomplish our mission—our employees. As the Baby Boomer generation enters retirement, there will be fewer workers to take their place. It is imperative that we do everything we can to recruit, hire, advance and retain the best qualified employees available. The Affirmative Action Program can help the Nebraska Department of Roads achieve this goal.

Further comments or questions can be directed to the Affirmative Action Officer, Michael Mitchell, at mikemitchell@dor.state.ne.us or by telephone (402)479-3661. ♦

NDOR Efforts Emphasize Employee Wellness

According to an often-quoted adage, “When you have your health, you have everything.” NDOR has heeded this sage wisdom in its efforts to improve employee health and wellness.

NDOR has been involved with and supportive of wellness efforts over the years, but there is a renewed emphasis in this area, in large part due to the efforts and leadership of NDOR Director John Craig.

These efforts dovetail well with Governor Dave Heineman’s challenge to all Nebraskans, and state employees specifically, to focus on improving their health during 2008, according to Director Craig. The Governor’s Walks for Wellness and support for N-Lighten Nebraska, a team wellness program conducted by the Nebraska Sports Council, are both supported by NDOR.

Three Components

In addition to these activities, Director Craig said he supports three vital components of individual and collective wellness—physical, mental and financial. The “physical” area involves improving health, becoming more fit and preventing disease. This includes improving the safety of

NDOR employees and partners.

The “mental” aspect includes those areas that relate to the human mind, such as education, workforce development, talent, innovation, problem-solving and feeling good about doing meaningful work. The “financial” component involves providing education, training, and planning tools on financial well-being.

As one example of NDOR’s efforts within the “physical” wellness component, Director Craig noted that he joined a dozen NDOR employees who ran in the 2007 Lincoln Marathon/Half-Marathon, and most plan to do the 2008 Marathon. Director Craig also plans to participate in the Boston Marathon in April.

A series of lunch-hour presentations on wellness were offered to NDOR employees as a lead-up to the marathon, with involvement open to anyone, not just marathon participants. Presenters from UNL, local hospitals and health clubs provided free information on a wide variety of topics, including stretching and injury prevention, core strength training, marathon and half-marathon training, proper shoes for walking and running, Tai Chi, nutrition, vitamins, and Calorie Salary.

Additional Opportunities

According to Blane Osterman, Safety/Wellness Program manager in Human Resources, NDOR offers many additional opportunities within the “physical” component, including a Health Risk Appraisal, which has been available to NDOR employees statewide for the past two years. The appraisal provides employees with a baseline of individual health risks so they can establish areas where they need to maintain good choices and areas where they are at risk and need to make lifestyle changes.

Osterman noted that some health screenings, including blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol, are available at various times. Blood pressure screenings are offered daily at the occupational nurse’s station in the central headquarters in Lincoln and are offered to employees across the state at district and statewide events. Cholesterol, glucose, body fat and other screenings are offered at a nominal cost to employees when possible, with plans to expand this effort.

Walking is a universal activity and can be done by anyone at any place or time. Walking is encouraged for all NDOR employees and many are involved in this activity during breaks and lunch hours every day of the week. NDOR also encourages participation in a variety of activities, including NDOR teams for N-Lighten, the Lincoln Community Endowment Health Program, Marathon/Half-Marathon, Cornhusker State Games and other activities. Although financial assistance is not provided for these activities, Osterman said there is a great deal of interest shown by NDOR employees.

In addition to these activities, NDOR employees are involved in numerous activities and recreational pursuits including mountain-climbing, bicycling, swimming, Volkswalks, baseball and softball teams, golf

You’re Invited...

Who: All NDOR Employees
What: 2008 Lincoln Marathon/Half-Marathon
When: Sunday, May 4, 2008 at 7:00 a.m.
Where: Lincoln, NE
How: For more information and/or to register, go to www.lincolnrn.org/marathon.htm



Those already planning to participate: NDOR Director John Craig; Bob Davis, District 3; Max Antoine, Bridge; Alex Wright and Ron Poe, Planning & Project Development; Brian Johnson, Roadway Design; Christian Davenport, Business Technology Support; Steve Sabra, Bridge; Kristi Van Ooyen, Construction; and Blane Osterman, Human Resources.

Please Join Us!

leagues, bowling leagues, etc. Many have lost a lot of weight or received an award or recognition for a related activity. Those who would like to share their activities or accomplishments with others may send an e-mail to Osterman. This simple act might inspire and motivate someone to make a positive change in their lifestyle.

Safety Program Vital

NDOR's safety program is a vital aspect in the "physical" wellness component. According to Osterman, the concepts of health, wellness and fitness are being incorporated into the department safety program to ensure employees know that a healthy and fit employee is less likely to be injured on the job. Safety Stand Down Days are held by each of NDOR's eight field districts to provide an opportunity for all employees to focus on safety. Health and wellness presentations as well as health screenings are offered at these meetings.

NDOR employees receive additional updates, including tie-ins with national health and safety efforts (like the Wear Red for Women's Heart Disease day), educational articles, and information about district and statewide events through e-mails, the Roadrunner and the NDOR website.

The "mental" component of NDOR's wellness program is addressed in various ways. The Employee Recognition Program focuses on frequent, meaningful, specific and timely appreciation for all employees. Every employee has the chance to be appreciated for the work they do, with opportunities provided for both individual and team recognition.

Training and development are important pieces to employees' mental and financial wellness. When employees are well-trained and prepared to do their job and to take on new challenges, their mental well being is enhanced.

Open enrollment in state employee benefits gives NDOR employees the opportunity to obtain information which impacts their well being. One benefit, the Best Care Employee Assistance Program, is free to all state employees and offers a variety of services, including professional counseling and 24-hour access via a toll-free number.

Awareness, Education and Planning

The financial well-being of NDOR employees is addressed through awareness, education and planning tools to take advantage of opportunities offered through the state's



benefits program and other avenues. The Flex Spending Benefit and the Deferred Compensation Plan are a couple of tools employees can use to improve their financial health, which, in turn, can translate into less stress—both physical and mental.

It is important to recognize that the opportunities outlined in this article are available to all NDOR employees, but it is a matter of personal choice as to which, if any, are incorporated. Awareness is being generated, but ultimately it is up to each individual as to what they choose to do with the information and resources that are provided.

According to Director Craig, these three components of NDOR's employee wellness program—physical, mental and financial—are essential in developing a skilled and productive workforce. But the best reason of all for improved health and wellness, he believes, is that you will feel good.

"When you're feeling better and in better health, personally, I think you get more out of life. You can truly live life to the fullest." ♦



D-1 Superior Street Crew "Goes Red for Women"

The maintenance crew from NDOR's District 1 Superior Street office, supervised by Jeff Havlat, wore red on February 1 to honor all the women in their lives. By doing so, they were showing their support for women's heart disease awareness.

Front row (l to r): Harold "Norm" Ziegenbein, Brad Wooge, Al Beeck, Ron Spilker, Seth Luse. **Back row:** Brad Havlovic, Asa Lempka, Jeff Havlat (Supervisor), Tony Siemering, Brian Burdue, Roger Sexton, Travis Nicholson.

Photo by Scott Ellinger, District 1

D-1 Project Receives Teamwork in Work Zone Safety Award

A NDOR District 1 project, the US-77 South to I-180 expansion on the interstate to six lanes in Lincoln, received the Teamwork in Work Zone Safety Award, given by the AGC/NDOR Traffic Control Committee at the 2008 Project Managers' Conference held March 4-6 in Kearney.

Plaques were given to Dobson Brothers Construction Company and Affiliates, Lincoln, Nebraska, prime contractor for the project, and to Jim England, NDOR Project Manager at District 1 in Lincoln. The traffic control subcontractor was Trafcon, Inc.

Two projects received honorable mention: N-61/UPRR-Lake McConaughy Viaduct at District 6 near Ogallala - Paulsen, Inc., of Cozad, Nebraska, prime contractor and Rich Morrell, Project Manager; and Springfield North at District 2 - Cedar Valley Corp. & Subsidiary of Waterloo, Iowa, prime contractor and Zahi Khalaf, Project Manager.

The award is "in recognition of excellence - through demonstrated cooperation and communication between all parties involved - in installing, coordinating and maintaining effective traffic control. The traffic control utilized and maintained on this project reflects the goals of both the Department of Roads and the Nebraska AGC - a work zone maintained in a safe condition for both workers and motorists alike." ♦

"Top Clod" Award Goes to Perrett Construction

The "Top Clod" Grading Award went to Perrett Construction, Ltd., Valentine, Nebraska, for their work on the Hooper East & West project. Others recognized included Rob Wemhoff, Project Manager for prime contractor Werner Construction Co., Hastings, Nebraska; NDOR District 2 Construction Engineer Marv Lech and Project Manager Micky Jacobs.

The 8.5-mile project included 5 miles of new alignment and 3½ miles of reconstruction. Approximately 1.6 million cubic meters of earth were moved. Hydric soils were salvaged, stockpiled and placed in wetland mitigation areas. Most of the grading on the \$4.5 million project was completed using equipment mounted Global Positioning Systems which eliminated the need for slope stakes and blue tops.

The "Top Clod" Grading Award is presented by the AGC/NDOR Joint Grading Committee to recognize a grading contractor demonstrating a high standard of accuracy and attention in the areas of cooperation, innovation, prosecution and quality of work and safety. ♦



**When you're
in the driver's seat,
You make the difference!**

**Drive Smart
thru Work Zones!**



NDOR
Nebraska
Department of Roads



www.nebraskatransportation.org



2007 TEAM SAFETY

NDOR Team Safety Efforts Recognized

The NDOR employee recognition program emphasizes safety through team efforts, with employees in safety sensitive positions grouped into "teams." Districts and divisions encourage employees to work with team members to achieve specific safety goals and earn recognition points.

In order to be recognized for being successful in 2007, a team must have accumulated 700 points or more, according to Blane Osterman, Human Resources Safety/Wellness Manager. Sixty-five of 141 safety teams reached the 700-point goal. Individual employees on these teams are recognized with a 2007 Team Safety lapel pin and their choice of one of three items emblazoned with the 2007 Team Safety logo.

The district with the largest percent of their teams reaching the recognition goal was recognized with a

certificate. District 8 had 64.7 percent of their team surpass the 700-point goal.

Teams earn points by maintaining or improving on accident and injury frequency rates, having monthly safety meetings, attending safety training, doing well in facilities inspections that identify workplace hazards, and reporting accident and injury information in a timely and accurate fashion.

Osterman noted the 2007 recognition program was a little more challenging than the 2006 program (the program's first year) with the goal increasing from 600 to 700 points and safety training points capped at 150 per team. The program is a tool that both NDOR management and employees can use to keep moving in the direction of no accidents and no injuries in the workplace.

Congratulations to the 65 NDOR teams who reached the 2007 safety goal. ♦

District 6 Repeat Winner of Environmental Award

N-61/UPRR-Lake McConaughy Viaduct project, located on Highway 61, north of Lake McConaughy, was the recipient of the second annual Environmental Award, given by the NDOR/AGC Joint Committee of Seeding and Erosion Control. A plaque was presented to Kirk Barnes, Dan Epke and Salvador Torres of Kirk Barnes Construction, Valentine, Nebraska, subcontractor for the project, during ceremonies at the 2008 Project Managers' Conference held March 4-6 in Kearney.

Noel Salac, District 6 Construction Engineer, and Rich Morrell, District 6 Project Manager, also accepted plaques. Certificates were given to NDOR inspectors Cameron Craig,

Jason Nichols, Douglas Gertsch and Darrell O'Neal. Dave Neill accepted a plaque on behalf of Paulsen, Inc., of Cozad, Nebraska, the prime contractor.

This was the second annual Environmental Award. Both times, the award has gone to projects in District 6. According to Ron Poe, NDOR Highway Environmental Program Manager, "This is a credit to the level of effort and emphasis that District 6 has placed on environmental commitments and working to maintain compliance with these commitments."

The Environmental Award for Stormwater/Erosion Control is awarded annually to the project

whose project manager and contractor have worked together to develop a means of protecting the project site from erosive conditions. Projects were graded on several items, including: the use of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan during construction; updated temporary Erosion Control Plan; completeness of inspection reports; maintain good housekeeping on the site; appropriate use of erosion control techniques; use of new or innovative erosion control techniques; erosion and sediment control maintenance; project phasing; site re-vegetation; and the education of staff and subcontractors on environmental issues. ♦

Brian Carnahan Named Project Manager of the Year

Brian Carnahan, of Chadron, was honored by the Nebraska Chapter Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) as Nebraska Department of Roads' Project Manager of the Year. Carnahan received a traveling trophy and a plaque at the Project Managers' Conference in Kearney on March 5.

Carnahan has worked at NDOR for the last 29 years and has been a project manager at the District 5 construction office in Chadron since 1996. He has managed numerous key projects such as: Crawford South, Harrison South and Hay Springs West.

According to Doug Hoevet, District 5 Construction Engineer, "Brian is very conscientious, practical and strives to have every project he is involved with be considered a success. District 5 is proud to have Brian recognized as the Project Manager of the Year."

The award is presented annually by the AGC to a NDOR project manager who has upheld the standards of conducting business within the highway construction industry with the highest level of ethics and integrity. The trophy is called the Lyle Leader Memorial Award in tribute to Mr. Leader, who was a project manager at NDOR for 34 years. He was active in the District 3 Hartington office at the time of his death in August 1991 and was highly respected by his peers within the department and by the contractor members of AGC.

All contractor members submitted a nomination for this award and the nominees were voted upon by the members of the AGC. For the year 2008, Carnahan received the high honor. ♦



(l to r) Tyler Chicoine, Garcia Chicoine Enterprises; Doug Williams, President, Nebraska AGC-Heavy Highway; Brian Carnahan, 2008 Project Manager of the Year; and Curt Beck, Executive Director, Nebraska AGC.

Photo by Steve Bartos, NDOR

Service Awards

Congratulations to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *April and May*.

50 Years

William Smets, District 6
Barbara Engel, Roadway Design

40 Years

Rex Packwood, District 1
Randy Havranek, District 8

30 Years

Carole Gasper, Traffic
Charles Griggs, Communication
Thomas Sands, Operations
Michael Lobush, Bridge
Kenton Kuhn, District 7
Ron Nielsen, Materials & Research
Nancy Sutton, Business Tech Support
Timothy Foss Sr., Operations
Janice Christensen, Right-of-Way
Jolynn Durbin, Traffic
Roger Haahr District 3

20 Years

Scott Gripenstroh, District 4
Richard Wade, District 1
Dallas Hayes, District 7
Lynette Norman, District 3
Nancy Ziegelbauer Snider, District 4
Tony Babb, District 4
Jeffrey Kostbahn, District 4
Henry Rivas, District 4
Russell Frickey, District 5
Michael Houfek, Operations
Dennis Connot, District 5
Michael McGinn, District 3

10 Years

Carol Wienhold, Planning & Proj. Dev.
Larry Rahe, District 5
Linda Grabowski, District 7
Vertrie Kramer, Right-of-Way
Andrew Cunningham, Gov't. Affairs
Silvano Munoz, District 1
Mike McCoy, District 8
James Genrich, Planning & Proj. Dev.
Clayton Hartman, District 3
Raymond Gerver, District 7
William Timmerman, District 8
Julie Brown, District 4
Melody Richards, District 4

Arbor Road Project Wins Bridge Construction Award

A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc. of Atlantic, Iowa, prime contractor for the Arbor Road Bridge over Interstate 80 on the north side of Lincoln, was the recipient of the AGC/NDOR Bridge Construction Award. Babrak Niazi, was the NDOR District 1 Project Manager. Doug Williams, President, Nebraska AGC-Heavy Highway, accepted the award on behalf of A.M. Cohron & Son during ceremonies at the 2008 Project Managers' Conference held March 4-6 in Kearney.

According to Babrak Niazi, District 1 Project Manager, Cohron did an excellent job of managing this unique bridge project during its two-year construction life, making sure the bridge was completed in the best way possible. The project was successfully completed and opened to traffic on June 28, 2006.

Cohron stayed on top of many unique and challenging construction issues that accompanied the Arbor Road Bridge, including the trans-

portation, lifting and installation of curved concrete U-box girders, a new design that used concrete girders with post-tensioning and deck panels over the girders, which replaced the original design of Welded Plate Girders.

The use of curved concrete U-box girders was a Value Engineering Proposal (VEP) submitted by Cohron to NDOR, which was accepted and provided a savings of over \$100,000—about five percent of the total cost of the project. Tadros Associates prepared the VEP and also played a significant role during the construction phase of the project.

Making concrete deck panels on site with special concrete and installing them one by one was an operation that was totally new to the contractor. Post-tensioning of the girders was another challenging operation that the contractor had to get assistance from experts outside of the state of Nebraska on different post-tensioning phases of girders. All these challenges

were faced and the project crew together came out of all of them successfully.

An additional requirement was needed because the project was environmentally sensitive due to its proximity to endangered species habitat. NDOR personnel, contractor personnel and erosion control consultants worked together to take important measures to assure minimal disturbance to the habitat of the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle. All environmental provisions were completed and the project was a NDOR nominee in 2007 for best project in Erosion Control.

The AGC/NDOR Bridge Construction Award recognizes quality bridge construction in Nebraska. Categories that were considered included: quality of workmanship, project management, innovation in construction or use of material, contribution to traveling public/community, environmentally sensitive, rising to the challenge – difficult job or situation, and safety. ♦

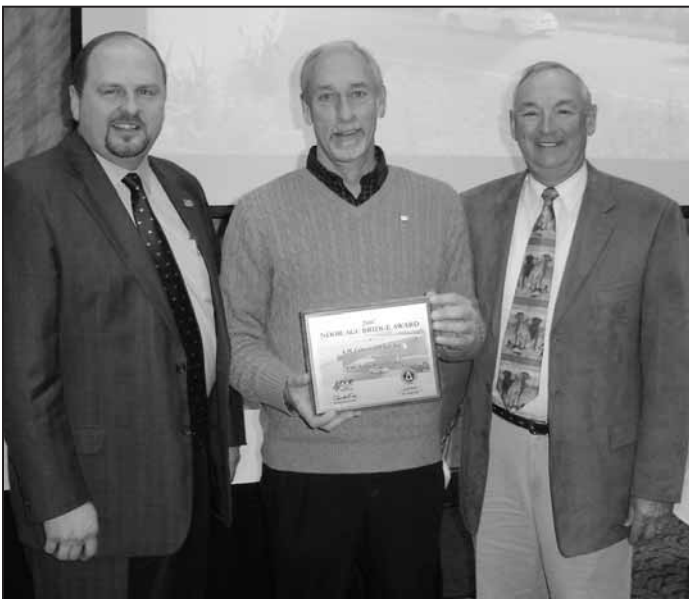


Photo by Steve Bartos, NDOR

(l to r) Curt Beck, Executive Director, Nebraska AGC; Doug Williams, Vice President A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.; and Claude Oie, NDOR Construction Engineer.



Photo by Steve Bartos, NDOR

(l to r) Curt Beck, Executive Director, Nebraska AGC; Babrak Niazi, NDOR District 1 Project Manager for the Arbor Road Bridge Project; and Claude Oie, NDOR Construction Engineer.

Paving Awards Presented in Kearney

Several project managers, construction technicians, and material and research technicians were honored with awards for both concrete and asphalt pavements at the annual Project Managers' Conference held March 4-6 in Kearney.

The Nebraska Department of Roads sponsors the awards for excellence in asphaltic concrete pavement construction. Awards of excellence for highway construction projects using concrete pavement are sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Nebraska Concrete Paving Association. The awards recognized their work on Nebraska highways during 2007.

Concrete Pavement Quality Awards

The award for excellence in Interstate and Expressway concrete pavement was presented to Jim England of District 1 in Lincoln for his part as Project Manager for **I-80, US-77 South Interchange to I-180, Lincoln**. This award was presented for 3.8 miles of six-lane interstate. Dobson Brothers Construction Company was the contractor. Jeff Johnston of the Roadway Design Division was the designer. Certificates of Merit were presented to Construction Technicians Tim Yates, Brian Perry, Dale Luse and Tom Morehead for their part in performing inspection activities and to Bill Sabata, Craig Branch and Justin Gosnell for their part in performing construction surveying.

Project Manager Babrak Niazi of District 1 in Lincoln, received the award in the Concrete Pavement Rehabilitation category for **Lincoln North** — a 7-mile rehabilitation project of the four-lane divided US-77 expressway completed by Safety Grooving & Grinding L.P. and Ten Point Construction. Certificates of Merit were presented to Aaron

Cleaver, Ron Klaus and Jim Ebeling for their part in performing inspection activities. NDOR Materials and Research Pavement Design Section was responsible for the project design.

Honored in the Secondary State Highways and County Roads category was Project Manager Richard Morrell of District 6 in North Platte for his management of **N-61, UPRR, Lake McConaughy**, 1.4 miles of two-lane rural highway leading from the Kingsley Dam to a new viaduct structure over the Union Pacific Railroad. The project was constructed by Paulsen, Inc. Wahed Hassani of the Roadway Design Division was the Consultant Coordinator and TranSystems Corporation designed the project. Certificates of Merit were presented to Construction Technicians Jason Nichols, Cameron Craig, Doug Gertsch and Darrell O'Neal for their service as inspectors on this project.

Receiving the award for the Municipal Streets category was Project Manager Bob Nordhues of District 4 in Grand Island for **In Aurora**, which was a ½-mile section of Nebraska Highway 14 built by Paulsen, Inc. Lorraine Legg of the Roadway Design Division designed the project. Certificates of Merit were presented to Construction Technicians Dennis Osterman, Ben Merchant and Curtis Probasco for performing inspections on this project.

Pavement smoothness, quality control, innovation, complexity, appearance, management and safety of the project were considered in determining these awards.

Asphaltic Concrete Pavement Quality Awards

Four projects received awards for excellence in asphaltic concrete pavement. Nominated projects were judged by a panel who rated each project based on smoothness, quality control, complexity, general appearance, contractor management and safety.

The 2007 Excellence in Asphalt Pavement Construction Award of Merit for Overlays of Two or More Lifts went to Project Manager Gary Brinker of District 6 in North Platte for **Merna West**, constructed by Werner Construction, Inc. This 7.8-mile rural paving project on Nebraska Highway 92 consisted of 5 inches hydrated-lime-slurry-stabilized recycled asphalt with 2-foot trench widening to produce a 28-foot top having 2½ inches of asphaltic concrete type SP-4 Special as the wearing surface. Certificates of Merit were presented to Construction Technicians Jerold Ison, Paul Gibbs, Chad Garcia, Eric Hageman, Ken Tuma, Sherri VanDiest and Troy Pedersen for their roles as inspectors, and to Stacy Burford, Kim Koch and Ila Kendall for their assistance with materials sampling and testing.

The 2007 Excellence in Asphalt Pavement Construction Award of Merit for Overlays of One Lift went to Project Manager Wayne Rhamy of District 5 in Gering for **Wyoming to West Kimball**, constructed by Knife River Midwest. This 19.9-mile rural interstate project consisted of a 2-inch mill and inlay of the driving and passing lanes and inside and outside shoulders in both directions. Certificates of Merit were presented to Construction Technicians Martin Gillen, Jesse Reyes, Brian Markheim and Jeff Hack for their parts as inspectors on the project, and to Rodney McNeel and Ila Kendall for their help with quality assurance.

The 2007 Award of Merit for Full Depth Construction went to Project Manager Dennis White of the District 6 Broken Bow office for **Broken Bow South**, constructed by Werner Construction, Inc. This 10.8-mile project on Nebraska Highway 21 has 3 miles of new alignment and 7.8 miles of rehabilitated pavement. The rehabilitated pavement consisted

See **Paving Awards** on next page

Signature Award Goes to Curt Smith

Curt Smith, Vice President of Capitol Contractors, received the 2008 Signature Award for excellent work on Nebraska Department of Roads projects. He was honored at ceremonies during the 2008 Project Managers' Conference March 4-6 in Kearney.

Noel Salac, NDOR Assistant District Construction Engineer, District 6, said he has found Smith to be very knowledgeable, honest and forthcoming in all business transactions, and the project managers in his district were impressed with his outstanding leadership.

NDOR Project Manager Gary Brinker, District 6, remembered the experience with Smith near the end of the Brady South project, noting, "...Before all the bridge structures were complete, Capitol made a decision to close their Bridge Construction Division. Even with their construction operations ceasing, Curt took personal charge of the project, and with very limited resources, saw it to completion. His commitment to seeing the project completed with the highest standards



Photo by Steve Bartos, NDOR

(l to r) Noel Salac, NDOR Assistant District Construction Engineer at District 6 in North Platte; Curt Smith, Vice President of Capitol Contractors and recipient of the 2008 Signature Award; and Claude Oie, NDOR Construction Engineer.

of quality and in a timely manner was exemplary."

NDOR Construction Engineer Claude Oie commended Smith for being an asset to the entire bridge industry. He added, "Curt has always been there when the department had an emergency bridge repair. He was not only willing to take on these repair jobs on short notice, but willing to offer his expertise on methods of repairs."

Smith started in the construction industry with the NDOR District 4 office in 1964. In 1973, he moved to Capitol Bridge Co. and for the past 34 years he has built up to 400 bridges spanning the entire state of Nebraska from Rulo to Scossbluff. He has also been involved in bridge construction in northern Kansas.

The Signature Award is given by NDOR District Construction Engineers to individuals in the contracting industry possessing certain characteristics, including excellence in leadership, good communication, problem solving, organization, attitude, safety,

and achieving above and beyond standard management practices. In addition to receiving a trophy, plaque and having their names added to a permanent plaque at the NDOR central headquarters, a \$500 scholarship is given in the recipient's name to a University of Nebraska student majoring in construction engineering or construction management. ♦

Paving Awards *(cont'd. from page 10)*

of milling 1 inch from the existing asphaltic concrete and covering this milled surface with a 4-inch layer of new asphaltic concrete SP-4. Portions of the rehabilitated segment were trench-widened to produce a 28-foot top and others were built with a 24-foot roadway and 8-foot surface shoulders. The realigned segment of roadway consisted of 8-inch-thick full-depth asphaltic concrete type SP-4 on prepared subgrade. Certificates of

Merit were presented to Construction Technicians John Beavers, Dave Hansen, Ken Tuma, Bill Teahon, Tami Evans, Pat Horn and Allen Donahey for their parts as inspectors on the project.

Arabia West was recognized as the smoothest project submitted for review. Michael Rudnick of District 8 in Ainsworth received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. This 8.2-mile project on Nebraska Highway 20 consisted of 4 inches of hydrated-lime-slurry-stabilized

recycled asphalt covered by 3 inches of new asphaltic concrete type SP4 Special, 2¾ inches of asphaltic concrete type SPS asphalt placed on the existing surface shoulders. Knife River Midwest, LLC, produced the asphaltic concrete and was the prime contractor. Certificates of Merit were presented to Construction Technicians Rick Irwin, James Baker and Pam Schmitz for their roles as inspectors on the project, and to Mike Reynolds and Charlie Maas for quality assurance sampling and testing. ♦

Fremont Students Challenged

By Micky Jacobs
District 2 Project Manager

On February 8, the bridges for this year's bridge building contest at Fremont's Archbishop Bergan Middle/High Schools were tested. The participation and creativity was greater than anyone imagined. A total of 97 bridges were constructed and tested—60 toothpick, 29 straw and eight spaghetti.

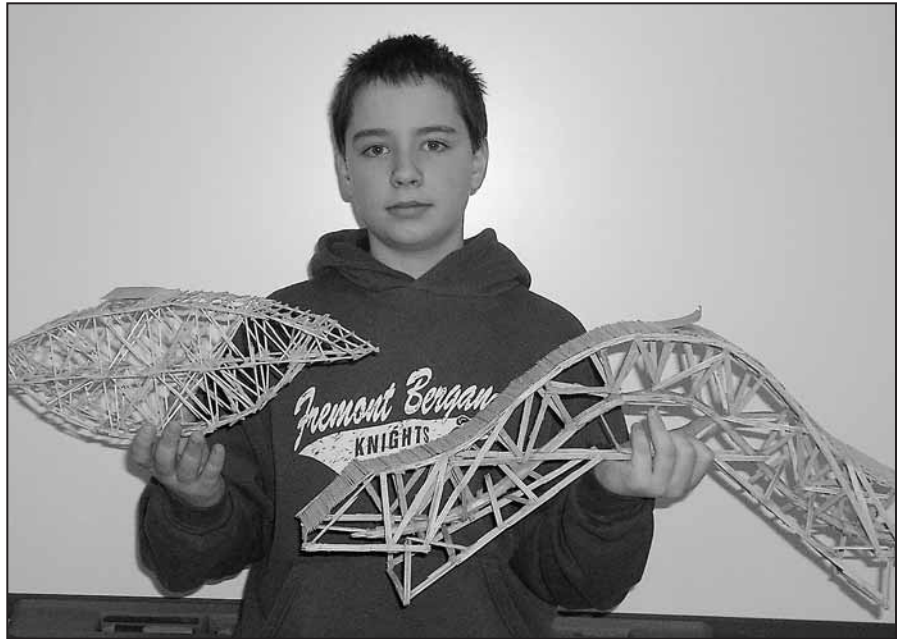
The toothpick bridges held an average of 144 times their weight, with the winner of the 6th grade entries holding an amazing 824 times its weight (122 pounds), while the 7th grade winner held 353 times its weight (53 pounds).

The straw bridges averaged 14.7 times their weight, with the winner holding 40.5 times its weight (11.9 pounds). This was the closest of the categories, with the difference between first and second places being less than 0.30 pounds.

The high school physics class produced eight spaghetti bridges that held an average of 14.7 times their weight, with the winner holding 22.6 times its weight (34 pounds).

The bridge that garnered the most interest was built by 7th grader Wyatt Getzschman. This bridge did not meet contest specifications, but was by far the most elaborate of all the bridges tested. This bridge held 162 pounds.

Thanks to NDOR's Communication Division for the help provided. Thanks also to District 2 Construction Engineer



Wyatt Getzschman holds the winning toothpick bridge in his right hand, efficiency 353.53 (53.1 pounds). The bridge in his left hand did not meet specifications, but was the most elaborate. At the teacher's request, it was tested and held 162 pounds.

Marv Lech and District 2 Assistant Construction Engineer Tom Goodbarn for their support of this event.

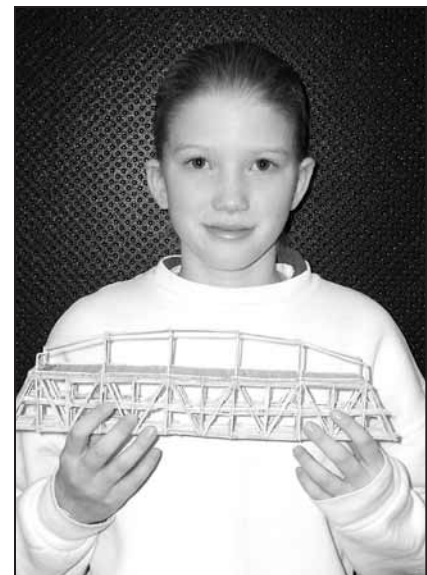
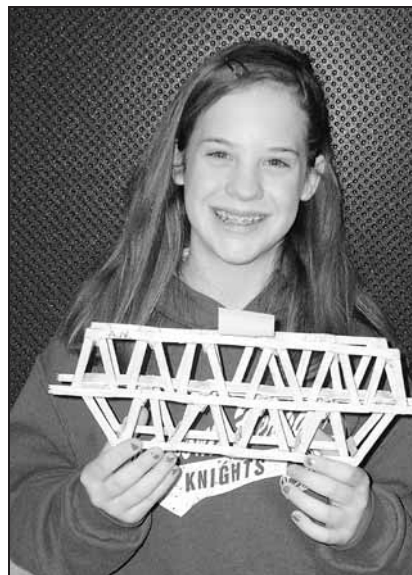
The goal of this adventure was to stimulate the minds of these kids. We believe we were successful. Winners in the three categories were:

Toothpick: Wyatt Getzschman - Efficiency 353.53 (53.1 pounds)

Straw: Cody Laaker - Efficiency 40.48 (11.90 pounds)

Spaghetti: Colby Ranslem - Efficiency 22.64 (34.1 pounds)

Although these two 6th graders Ashtynn Neill (*left*) and Emily Belak (*right*), did not qualify for the plaque, they need to be mentioned because Ashtynn's bridge held an amazing 824.24 times its weight (122 pounds) and Emily's held 710.23 times its weight (88.7 pounds).



Photos courtesy of Fremont's Archbishop Bergan Middle/High Schools

NDOR Highway Improvement Projects Currently Under Contract

Information from Trans•port SiteManager as of March 11, 2008

Location
Work Description
Prime Contractor
Project Manager
Contract Bid Amount

Key:

Aggregate - Agg
Bituminous - Bit
Bridge - Br
Building - Bldg
Concrete Pavement - ConPav
Culverts - Culv
Electrical - Elec
Grading - Gr
Guardrail - Gdrl
Landscaping - Lndscp
Mechanically Stabilized Earth - MSE
Seeding - Seed
Speciality - Spec

District 1

Beaver Crossing Southeast
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$548,870.20

Preston North & South
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$960,309.99

Diller Northwest
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$374,347.50

Swanton Northeast
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Vanroekel, Kirk (402)483-5466
\$455,080.20

Ulysses Northeast
Br
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Cowles, Scott (402)443-4661
\$417,560.65

Palmyra Southeast
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl
L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$631,826.87

Table Rock North
Br
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$801,675.34

Greenwood Southeast
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$436,121.92

Dorchester - Milford
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Endorf, Dennis (402)729-3489
\$2,367,706.85

Weeping Water North & South
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Constructors, Inc.
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131
\$10,894,723.90

Tecumseh North
Bit
Pavers Companies
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131
\$323,168.84

Weeping Water Spur
Bit
U.S. Asphalt Co.
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131
\$423,415.26

N-63 Interchange
Gr, MSE, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850
\$9,165,909.38

Main Line EB Br. Waverly Intchg.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Niazi, Babrak (402)471-0850
\$6,135,087.75

Platte River Bridges
Gr, MSE Wall, ConPav, Culv,
Seed, Br, Gdrl, Fence, Sign Elec
Hawkins Construction Co.
Knutson, Dewaine (402)471-0850
\$45,189,781.90

Lewiston East & West
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Cary, Bill (402)335-4131
\$1,272,126.48

Cortland South
Culv
M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.
Cary, Bill (402)335-4131
\$89,660.10

Jct N-41/N-43 East of Adams
Elec
Ensley Electrical Services, Inc.
Cary, Bill (402)335-4131
\$9,808.00

In Pawnee City
Gr, ConPav, Culv
TCW Construction, Inc.
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131
\$154,362.33

Nebraska City West
Spec
Knish Corporation
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131
\$1,186,139.00

I-180 - 56th St., Lincoln
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Dobson Brothers Const. Co. &
United Contractors Inc (JV)
Sanburn, Bob (402)471-0850
\$48,766,667.84

US-77 So. Intchg. to I-180, Lincoln
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
England, Jim (402)471-0850
\$28,886,121.30

Lincoln South
Bit
Pavers Companies
Preble, Rodger (402)471-0850
\$2,476,287.78

Lincoln East
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Preble, Rodger (402)471-0850
\$344,271.26

Greenwood - Ashland
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Lange, Dan (402)471-0850
\$2,216,924.16

Ashland Viaduct
Gr, Br, Gdrl, Elec
MCC, Llc
Lange, Dan (402)471-0850
\$1,034,950.90

176th St. Bridge, Lincoln
Gr, MSE Wall, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Hawkins Construction Co.
Traudt, Bob (402)471-0850
\$2,650,963.64

148th St. Bridge, Lincoln
Gr, MSE, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Traudt, Bob (402)471-0850
\$2,875,439.22

Lincoln
Hqtr. Bldg. Addition
Cheever Const. Co.
Murillo, Ernest (402)471-0850
\$1,282,348.00

Salt Valley Maint. Yard Re-Roof
Salt Valley Re-Roof Project
Scott Enterprises, Inc.
Murillo, Ernest (402)471-0850
\$161,505.00

Lincoln West
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Hobelman, Ryan (402)471-0850
\$12,430,182.09

Morse Bluff South Bridge
Gr, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Hobelman, Ryan (402)471-0850
\$892,971.81

Cedar Bluffs West
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Hobelman, Ryan (402)471-0850
\$1,591,001.46

Districtwide, D-1 & D-4
Spec
Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc.
Kuehn, Joseph (402)471-0850
\$223,164.70

Raymond South
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec ,Bit
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Kuehn, Joseph (402)471-0850
\$4,816,393.42

Jct. US-34/Garland Spur (S-80d)
Elec
Ensley Electrical Services, Inc.
Volz, Jason (308)345-8490
\$7,206.15

District 2

Arlington North
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Dixon Construction Co.
Mooberry, Jon (402)488-2500
\$512,650.35

Fremont East Bypass
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Werner Construction, Inc.
Veverka, Frank (402)727-3292
\$26,555,563.32

In Fremont
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Veverka, Frank (402)727-3292
\$392,553.25

Harney St. - 24th St. (EB), Omaha
Gr, MSE, ConPav, Culv,
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Baehr, Dennis (402)595-2534
\$14,628,136.26

Gretna - Q St.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Chas. Vrana & Son Const. Co.
Farivari, Mo (402)595-2534
\$12,569,244.55

In Elkhorn
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec
Chas. Vrana & Son Const. Co.
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292
\$5,327,891.36

In Blair
ConPav
Chas. Vrana & Son Const. Co.
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292
\$791,866.25

In Omaha
Spec
Chester Bross Const. Co./
C.B. Equipment, Inc.
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534
\$2,731,406.97

I-80 - Dewey St., Omaha
Bit
U.S. Asphalt Co.
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534
\$4,621,002.26

Fort St. South, Omaha
Bit
U.S. Asphalt Co.
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534
\$2,716,030.66

72nd St., N-36 to I-680, Omaha
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec
Chas. Vrana & Son Const. Co.
Weander, Marty (402)595-2534
\$5,273,885.67

Pacific St. Bridge, Omaha
Gr, MSE Wall, ConPav, Seed,
Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec
Hawkins Construction Co.
Weander, Marty (402)595-2534
\$5,337,074.06

Expand I-80 EB & Kennedy SB
One Lane & Bridges
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br,
Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534
\$14,986,342.61

Hooper East & West
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Werner Construction, Inc.
Jacobs, Micky (402)727-3292
\$22,401,622.91

Arlington East
Spec
Knish Corporation
Jacobs, Micky (402)727-3292
\$509,869.62

Camera Installation, D-1 & D-2
Elec
Watts Electric Company
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534
\$548,217.20

Blair North Bridge
Gr, Br, Gdrl
MCC, Llc
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534
\$718,892.48

US-34/75 & 8th Ave., Plattsmouth
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Lndscp, Elec
Tab Holding Company, Inc.,
dba Tab Construction
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534
\$1,532,179.63

N-133/State, Omaha
ConPav, Elec
Luxa Construction Company, Inc.
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534
\$290,467.00

West Dodge Rd. (WB)
Expressway Br. 108th - 120th St.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br,
Spec, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534
\$62,989,885.92

So. Omaha Br., Main Br. Truss
Br
Jensen Construction Co.
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534
\$37,574,397.00

So. Omaha Br., Iowa Br. Approach
Br, Elec
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534
\$13,204,975.78

So. Omaha Br., Iowa Grading
Gr, Culv, Seed, Fence, Elec, Bit
K & L Landscape & Const., Inc.
Tsvd, Aleksandra (402)595-2534
\$3,499,546.34

So. Omaha Br., NE -
13th & Missouri Ave.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Lndscp, Elec
Hawkins Construction Co.
Hinchey, Maurice (402)595-2534
\$5,262,446.49

So. Omaha Br., NE Br. Approach
Gr, Br, Gdrl Elec
Hawkins Construction Co.
Hinchey, Maurice (402)595-2534
\$12,773,897.12

District 3

Wayne Southwest
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$555,394.56

Brunswick Northwest
Gr, Culv
A & R Construction Co.
Cowles, Scott (402)443-4661
\$86,854.57

Clearwater South
Gr, Br, Gdrl
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Mead, Terry (402)371-6416
\$571,179.59

Columbus Northeast
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$796,202.88

Platte Center Southwest
Gr, Br, Gdrl
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$351,028.40

Stanton Northeast
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$300,900.75

Stanton Southwest
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$319,016.40

Crofton Northwest
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl
Elk Horn Construction Co.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$409,973.90

Hartington Southwest
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$528,348.92

West Point Southwest
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$345,477.84

Belden South
Seed, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$1,270,833.28

US-20 to Coleridge
Bit
U.S. Asphalt Co.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$916,929.65

Emerson - North of Wakefield
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$2,045,838.44

Wayne Southwest
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl
L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$409,588.44

Jackson East
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Elec
Werner Construction, Inc.
Becker, Roger (402)254-6552
\$4,590,436.36

Newcastle - US-20
Bit
U.S. Asphalt Co.
Becker, Roger (402)254-6552
\$2,898,722.98

East of Petersburg
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Anderson, David (402)564-5751
\$2,931,753.70

Columbus East
Spec
The Road Guy Const. Co., Inc.
Anderson, David (402)564-5751
\$112,726.04

Humphrey Spur South
Spec
Missouri Pavement Maint., Inc.
Anderson, David (402)564-5751
\$120,164.60

Humphrey North & South
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Anderson, David (402)564-5751
\$1,898,877.52

Albion Equipment Storage Facility
Albion Equipment Storage Facility
J.H. Hespe Company, Inc.
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$286,643.00

Yankton Bridge
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Fence, Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Jensen Construction Company
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552
\$23,903,498.78

Norfolk West
Gr ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Werner Construction, Inc.
Schulz, Ron (402)370-3474
\$20,299,017.48

Neligh - N-121
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474
\$6,624,518.65

Elgin - US-20
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Knife River Midwest, Llc
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474
\$6,365,861.91

District 4

In Guide Rock
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$432,839.34

Sherman Reservoir North & South
Bit
Vontz Paving, Inc.
Harter, Lance (308)234-6456
\$1,053,683.28

McCool Jct. Northeast
Br
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Lilley, Brendan (402)366-1869
\$328,374.91

Districtwide, D-4, D-6 & D-7
Spec
Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc.
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996
\$221,334.88

Nora South
Gr, Culv
L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996
\$101,616.72

L-50A - 11th St., Kearney
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$2,223,460.62

Elm Creek South
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Paulsen, Inc.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$7,497,827.44

Odessa Interchange Br.
Br
The Diamond Engineering Co.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$110,347.62

Cairo - Boelus
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Kwiatkowski, Rick (308)754-5411
\$4,186,132.20

Fullerton - Genoa
Spec
Sta-Bilt Construction Co.
Kwiatkowski, Rick (308)754-5411
\$313,701.66

Ashton East
Spec
The Road Guy Const. Co., Inc.
Kwiatkowski, Rick (308)754-5411
\$195,670.00

York West Bridge
Br
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Grooms, Jerry (402)362-5934
\$227,590.05

BNSF Viaduct, York
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Elec
Constructors, Inc.
Grooms, Jerry (402)362-5934
\$1,261,361.00

In York
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Grooms, Jerry (402)362-5934
\$2,837,477.68

York North & South
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$18,182,230.53

Grafton East
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$353,963.64

York - Waco
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$104,617.00

In Aurora
Gr, MSE Wall, ConPav, Culv, Elec
Paulsen, Inc.
Nordhues, Bob (308)385-6265
\$1,808,087.83

Clarks - Silver Creek
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Nordhues, Bob (308)385-6265
\$2,531,717.90

Ord - Burwell
Gr, Culv, Seed, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888
\$8,121,354.49

Kearney West
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6888
\$5,086,203.99

Grant St. - Greenwich St.,
Grand Island
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec
Paulsen, Inc.
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6888
\$4,495,070.38

Locust St. Intchg., Grand Island
Lndscp
Gross Seed Company, Inc.
Schmidt, Larry (308)385-6888
\$137,227.40

Grand Island South (So. Locust St.)
Lndscp
Gross Seed, Company, Inc.
Schmidt, Larry (308)385-6888
\$75,151.50

Hastings East
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Schmidt, Larry (308)385-6888
\$169,945.33

Gibbon Link
Spec
Sta-Bilt Construction Co.
Schmidt, Larry (308)385-6888
\$145,500.55

Kearney/Adams County Line East
Gr, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Vontz Paving, Inc.
Meyer, Steve (402)462-1996
\$4,004,587.38

District 5

Fort Robinson State Park
Gr, Culv, Bit
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$2,462,829.43

Oshkosh West
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Frickey, Russ (308)262-1929
\$4,309,283.57

Gering West
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Applegate, Joe (308)632-1429
\$1,772,755.83

Hemingford West
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Applegate, Joe (308)632-1429
\$2,778,192.79

Gordon East
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
U.S. Asphalt Co.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$2,392,783.41

NE/SD Line South (Resurf.)
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$2,184,855.04

Alliance Southwest
Gr
Heggen Construction, Inc.
Hilderbrand, Sylvia (308)262-1920
\$524,688.89

Wyoming - W. Kimball
Gdrl, Bit
Knife River Midwest, Llc
Rhamy, Wayne (308)632-1429
\$4,536,343.01

Gering Maintenance Facility
Maint Fac
Heggen Construction, Inc.
Rhamy, Wayne (308)632-1429
\$4,294,341.46

Potter Interchange
Elec
Kayton Electric, Inc.
Rhamy, Wayne (308)632-1429
\$203,107.65

Sidney North
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Johnson, James (308)262-1929
\$3,389,182.00

Niobrara River South of Harrison
Gr, Culv
Paul Reed Const. & Supply, Inc.
Jacobs, Maryanne (308)632-1429
\$413,692.05

Automated Gate Closure Proj.-Rural
Elec
Mid-Plains Power Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$184,787.45

District 6

Halsey Northeast
Br
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Harter, Lance (308)234-6456
\$428,071.55

Brady Southeast
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Lautenschlager, Chris (402)421-1717
\$634,464.24

Maxwell - Brady
Spec
Missouri Pavement Maint., Inc.
Craig, Cameron (308)535-8031
\$56,852.50

Ogallala - Kingsley Dam
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033
\$680,380.90

Hershey Interchange
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec
Paulsen, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033
\$3,579,660.12

Brady Southeast
Gr, ConPav, Br, Gdrl
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Leach, Roy (308)535-8033
\$454,633.43

Building No. 60101
Generator Installation Project
Roberts Electrical Contracting, Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$68,420.00

N. Jct. N-23 North
Gr, Culv, Bit
Western Engineering Company, Inc.
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033
\$3,568,196.64

Districtwide, D-5 & D-6
Spec
Surface Preparation Tech., Inc.
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$306,479.00

Big Springs West & North
Spec
Sta-Bilt Construction Co.
Lewandowski, Daniel (308)535-8031
\$191,555.00

Broken Bow South
Gr, Culv, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$12,720,608.55

Gothenburg North
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$2,195,208.98

Cozad South
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Pedersen, Troy (308)535-8031
\$139,504.00

Big Springs - Brule
Bit
Highway Improvement, Inc.
Donahey, Allen (308)535-8031
\$104,278.00

District 7

Stratton South
Gr, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Dicenta, Gary (308)345-3710
\$1,142,422.58

Axtell Southeast
Bit
Vontz Paving, Inc.
Harter, Lance (308)234-6456
\$496,502.40

Various Sites in Frontier County
Gr, Culv
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Krajewski, Anthony (308)995-6677
\$419,585.88

Hendley Southeast
Culv
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Krajewski, Anthony (308)995-6677
\$128,169.16

Beaver City Northeast
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Krajewski, Anthony (308)995-6677
\$269,782.48

N. Jct. US-136 to N-4
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Kuhn, Kenton (308)995-5397
\$3,258,630.79

Jct. N-4 to Holdrege
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Kuhn, Kenton (308)995-5397
\$1,502,048.47

McCook North
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Collins, Duane (308)345-8490
\$285,203.28

Districtwide, D-7
Spec
Dakota Traffic Services, Llc
Collins, Duane (308)345-8490
\$608,599.97

101 South St.
Generator Installation Project
Teco Inc.
dba Trenton Elec/L& L Plumbing
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$117,840.00

Brandon - Grant
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$367,342.72

38764 Hwy. 6, McCook
Generator Installation Project
Teco Inc.
dba Trenton Elec/L& L Plumbing
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$163,750.00

Stockville Southwest
Br
The Diamond Engineering Co.
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$468,755.44

Republican City - Naponee
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Sell, Tim (308)995-5397
\$5,424,979.40

In Orleans & West
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Dietz, Mark (308)995-5397
\$6,475,503.61

Imperial West
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Doyle, Kelly (308)345-8490
\$4,349,110.41

Benkelman North
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Midlands Contracting, Inc.
Doyle, Kelly (308)345-8490
\$253,820.17

District 8

North Loup Br., Burwell
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec
A & R Construction Co.
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$3,047,658.52

Burwell East
Bit
Brown & Brown, Inc.
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$366,064.95

Burwell East
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$1,789,007.01

Springview North & South
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Rau, Larry (402)387-2471
\$4,218,606.29

Districtwide, D-8
Spec
Dakota Traffic Services, LLC
Rudnick, Michael (402)387-2471
\$683,201.99

Merriman South Bridge
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Perrett Construction, Ltd.
Gustafson, Jay (402)376-1352
\$4,898,412.25

Merriman West
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Gustafson, Jay (402)376-1352
\$2,567,010.76

Chambers Jct. South
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Ziska, Dan (402)336-2051
\$5,490,549.91

Districtwide, D-3 & D-8
Spec
Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc.
Adkisson, Jason (402)387-2471
\$275,711.14

Key:

Aggregate - Agg
Bituminous - Bit
Bridge - Br
Building - Bldg
Concrete Pavement - ConPav
Culverts - Culv
Electrical - Elec
Grading - Gr
Guardrail - Gdrl
Landscaping - Lndscp
Mechanically Stabilized Earth - MSE
Seeding - Seed
Speciality - Spec

We Get Letters ...

March 11, 2008

Re: NE Maps (PDF)

Barb,

Thanks a lot. This change will make it much easier to download all of the maps in the future. I would say the reason nobody ever asked for this before is just because people don't believe there really is anyone on the web anymore; they think it's all just machines. I am the webmaster for our organization, and it is hard to get people to communicate with you through a website; they don't believe that anything they say will actually be heard or considered.

Anyway, thanks again for the ZIP files, I just wish all of the states had their act together like you guys do. I recently tried to get some .PDF county maps from another state and couldn't find them on their website. I then called their office and they informed me they didn't even have any digital versions of their county maps. This, of course, makes it very hard for me to make the maps we need for our members. At least Nebraska has what we need.

Cameron D. Peebles
Hunting Sports Plus, Inc.

Editor's Note: Web Communication Officer Barb Biffle worked with GIS Project Manager Rose Braun and crew to service a citizen's information needs.

The Department of Roads receives numerous complimentary letters. The letters printed here are representative of those often sent praising the many fine and deserving employees of the Department of Roads.

March 3, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

A few days ago I called your office in regards to some county maps and was directed to a lady you have working for you named "Peggy." I have to tell you that you have a great employee there! She was very helpful and responded to my queries with lightning speed—I got my maps the next day. Don't know her last name, but she gave me 479-4899 to call her back, tell her "thanks."

J. Dowswell
Spearfish, SD

Editor's Note: The ever-helpful and efficient Pegge Gross-Rhode, Print/Copy Center, Communication Division gets the "thanks."

February 8, 2008

I just wanted to send a quick note to whomever is responsible for clearing Hwy. 43 and Panama Road. I know it's hard to get up early on cold, snowy mornings, but we can all be grateful to you for doing such a good job of it. Our safety is in your hands and we appreciate all your hard work.

The Connelly's
Panama, NE



By Steve Duecker

Highway Environmental Biologist
Planning & Project Development



Sounds of Spring

The spring migration of Sandhill Cranes brings people from all over the world to view the spectacle of thousands of cranes in the Rainwater Basin of Nebraska. It is quite a visual scene, but for me the sound created by all the cranes is even more impressive. When you mix in thousands of geese and ducks calling, it is quite an acoustic treat.

Other birds begin singing in the spring. Males give their distinctive calls to mark their territory and attract a mate. Individual species can be identified by their song. One of my favorites is the House Finch, which has a long intricate song; we have them around the NDOR central headquarters building in Lincoln.

The Yellow-headed Blackbird is another impressive singer. I guess you would not describe their call as musical. They nest in colonies and when they all get going it is quite loud. Wetlands with standing water below the cattails are the preferred nesting habitat.

Nesting colonies are more common in the Sandhills and Panhandle; we have a colony at the NDOR Scottsbluff Wetland Bank. There is also a nesting colony at the Jack Sinn Wildlife Management Area (WMA) near Ceresco.

Screech Owls begin calling in the late winter and the call is described as a tremulous whistle. If you whistle you can imitate this call and the little owl will call back to you.

Of course, these are just a few of the many birds singing in the spring. There are several websites with recordings of bird songs that you can listen to including <http://www.learnbirdsongs.com/> and <http://www.naturesongs.com/birds.html>.

Spring also brings a chorus of frogs and toads calling to attract a mate. Since these critters are amphibians they must lay their eggs in the water. Shallow water wetlands attract large numbers. Each species has a unique call. Those that work with frogs/toads can identify each species by the call; much like many bird watchers can identify birds by their call.

The photo gallery on the NDOR website now has photographs of several of the species mentioned above, plus many plants and scenes from Nebraska. They can be found at <http://www.nebraskatransportation.org/environment/guides.htm>.

Recommended Reading



*More good books as
recommended by Director John Craig*

"Running and Philosophy (A Marathon for the Mind)"
edited by Michael W. Austin, 2007, 226 pages.

An unusual, yet interesting read that was also at times dry. What initially seemed irrelevant based on the title, this book is made up of chapters each written by a separate author. Subjects discussed include what is the relationship between running and topics such as happiness, friendship, religion, authenticity, freedom, truth, deception, pain and suffering? Moreover, what is the relationship between success in life and success in running? A much better read than I initially contemplated as it reflects on the essential "wellness" of body and mind.

"The Age of Turbulence (Adventures in a New World)"
by Alan Greenspan, 2007, 531 pages.

A long, but wonderful, book to read. Alan Greenspan began as a talented musician but eventually found himself in economics and was the longest serving Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, 1987-2006. It is impossible to summarize this book in a paragraph or two. Suffice it to say that Greenspan discusses his experience to present in the first half of the book. In the second half, he discusses the so-called universals of economic growth and the global economy and its trends. One thing I found truly remarkable is Greenspan's conclusion that economics is about human nature and its seemingly inbred striving for self-esteem. He concludes that "it is no accident that we persevere and advance in the face of adversity. It is in our nature—a fact that has, over the decades, buoyed my optimism about the future." Well said. It is all about people. A must read book!



Understanding Pain Management

By Mary Spitsnogle, RN



Pain is the “number one” reason for doctor visits in our country. Pain is also one of our nation’s leading causes of disability. Early this decade the under-treatment of pain was recognized as a major public health problem in the United States. With this in mind, new attitudes and

changes are occurring. With recent changes going on, it is beneficial for each of us to review our personal understanding and possible misconceptions about the treatment of pain.

Until recently, the model for treatment of pain had many ideas that are now being dispelled by medical research. Some of the former ideas hold on to the view that it is not safe to prescribe pain medication on a continuous basis. There has been a fear among patients and health-care givers that certain pain medications are addictive. Some believe that patients should be tough and live with their pain. If an increase in pain medication has been requested there has been suspicion that they are showing signs of addiction.

The new approaches to pain dispel the attitude that someone is a “bad patient” if they complain about pain to their doctor. Toughing it out and silently suffering is no longer the way to go. Fear of addiction is not an issue like it was before. Only one percent of those on pain medications have problems with dependency or side effects. The focus of dependence is being shifted to illicit use of drugs where the concern really belongs. It is recognized that chronic pain contributes to not only a weakened immune system and slower healing, but it also can diminish the quality of the person’s life.

Standards

Many medical and regulatory organizations have recognized the necessity to better relieve pain by creating official statements and guidelines. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), which accredits most hospitals in the U.S., and even the U.S. Congress are examples of groups focusing on new nationwide guidelines and the standardization of assessment and treatment of pain. The JCAHO has now required that pain level be documented as the fifth vital sign along with the traditional temperature, blood pressure, heart rate and respiratory rate. As a patient, every person has the right to pain assessment and an adequate level of pain control. Health-care workers are being taught to be aggressive with pain control and act before the pain becomes intense.

Pain medications are important, but they are only one way to deal with chronic pain. A multi-disciplinary approach to pain management is proven to be more helpful. It may take several combinations of treatments before you find relief. Disciplines that are involved with pain control include physical therapy, relaxation training, biofeedback and even psychotherapy. There are some physicians now that are being trained in acupuncture. A referral from your doctor along with licensing and credentialing information is important in selecting a practitioner.

Keep in mind that not all health-care workers are up to date with the changes. Old ideas die hard. Pain affects more Americans than heart disease, diabetes and cancer combined. Chronic pain can affect a person’s physical, emotional, social and economic well-being and also can affect their families. Patients must be proactive with their health. Educate yourself, seek the advice of several experts and don’t rely on outdated advice.

NDOR Events Calendar

— April —

- 4 **Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
Meeting 8:45 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Examination 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 7-11 **National Work Zone Awareness Week**
- 8 **New Employee Orientation Program**
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870
- 9 **RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 12-26 **Great Nebraska Trash-Off**
www.dor.state.ne.us/operations/maintenance/adopt.htm
- 17 **Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 18 **Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 18 **Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 22 **Earth Day**
- 23 **RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 25 **State Holiday – Arbor Day**
- 30 **Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
NDOR Central Headquarters
Contact Diane Holthus @ 479-4580

— May —

- Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month**
- 2 **Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 6-8 **NDOR Operations & Maintenance Conference**
Ramada Inn, Kearney
- 11-17 **National Transportation Week**
www.ntweek.org
- 12-16 **National Bike-to-Work Week**
www.bikeleague.org
- 13 **New Employee Orientation Program**
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870

- 14 **RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735

- 16 **Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530

- 16 **Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436

- 5/19 - 6/1 **National "Click It or Ticket" Mobilization**

- 22 **Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528

- 26 **State Holiday – Memorial Day**

- 28 **RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735

- 5/31 - 6/8 **Nebraska Wildflower Week**
www.dor.state.ne.us/docs/flowers/

— June —

National Safety Month

- 7 **National Trails Day**
- 11 **RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 17 **New Employee Orientation Program**
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870
- 20 **Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 25 **Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
NDOR Central Headquarters
Contact Diane Holthus @ 479-4580
- 25 **RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 26 **Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 26-27 **Hwy. Commission Meeting**
Outstate Meeting – District 6, North Platte
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail lwilson@dor.state.ne.us. Information for the June/July Roadrunner should be received by May 16.

Nebraska Department of Roads
Communication Division
1500 Hwy 2
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27-6900

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